



SEC POLE ATTACHMENT PROCESS

- SEC allows Communications providers access to its pole facilities via established pole attachment agreements (contracts).
- Such agreements establish clearance and safety requirements to ensure the safety of the public, SEC lineworkers and Communications workers.
- Such agreements are rooted in the safety requirements found in the National Electrical Safety Code, which is one of the primary standards by which all utilities design their systems to ensure safe, uniform operations.
- In general, the pole attachment agreement establishes the procedures by which SEC will evaluate the existing infrastructure's (pole's) ability to support the weight of the communications attachment so as not to overload the pole or its supports and to ensure the communications attachment remains at a safe height over the ground below.
- When analyzing these loads and clearances, SEC must apply the appropriate ice and wind loading that is expected for their area. SEC has historically applied NESC Zone 1 (*Heavy Ice*) to its system designs, which includes a ½-inch of radial ice and 4 pounds/foot² of wind. Such ice/wind loading is applied to ensure the poles are not overloaded and that all cables will remain above minimum, safe ground clearances.
- As per the attachment agreement, the Communications provider would submit a request to SEC identifying the poles that it plans to attach to, including specific data about its cable and the proposed attachment heights.
- SEC will analyze the request, including the height and strength of the existing poles and existing ground clearances. Any upgrades needed such as taller or larger poles are identified, along with a construction cost estimate for such work.
- SEC and the Communications provider will determine the final "make-ready" work necessary and either SEC, its contractors or contractors for the Communications provider (if allowed) will perform the upgrade work to the poles.
- Any "make-ready" construction costs are paid by the Communications provider to ensure that SEC's member-owners are not impacted by the costs of these upgrades.
- Once the "make-ready" construction is completed, SEC will allow the Communications contractor to install its communications infrastructure. SEC will periodically check the finished work for accuracy and adherence to agreed designs.
- Each year, the Communications provider pays SEC a pole attachment fee for each pole on which it has an installed attachment. This fee is based on a percentage of the cost to maintain the poles in SEC's system. This pole attachment fee is based on the operational costs from the previous year, and it ensures the Communications provider pays its fair share for using the membership's system.
- SEC has pole attachment agreements with 28 Communications providers, 18 of which have attachments installed.
- SEC has approximately 13,476 attachments on its poles.
- SEC maintains approximately 128,000 poles across its 6,600 miles of overhead lines.